

Arts in the Parks

Potato Creek State Park Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2972.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Native Americans in the area collected plants along the creek with tuberous roots that resembled and were used like potatoes. When their word for these plants was translated into English, they became known as wild potatoes. This is where the name for the creek came from and then the Park – Potato Creek.
- Damming Potato Creek to make a man-made lake was first proposed in 1939. These plans were abandoned with the onset of WWII. Darcey Worster, a local conservationist, kept that idea alive so when there was a call for developing a state recreational facility in the area in the mid 1960's this site was selected. The lake was built in 1976-77 and is named Worster Lake in his honor. The Park was dedicated in 1977 and fully opened in the summer of 1978.
- The 327 acre Worster Lake is the key feature of the park. Numerous wetlands have been restored and native tall grass prairie planted to capture the essence of what the area was like in pre-European settlement times. These areas along with forest tracts and Potato Creek provide a wide variety of natural areas and therefore an abundance of wildlife for the visitor to enjoy. Potato Creek has been designated as an "Important Bird Area" by Bird Life International and the National Audubon Society.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Rent a row boat, paddleboat canoe or kayak and enjoy Worster Lake
- Hike trail 4 to see the restored spring house
- Visit the nature center and attend an interpretive program
- Go for a bike ride on either the paved trail or beginner's level mountain bike trail
- Go birding to see endangered osprey and a wide variety of other birds

Lodging: 17 family housekeeping cabins; 287 Class A campsites; 70 Class A Horseman's campsite; six youth tent area campsites each accommodating 50 people

General visitor profile: campers (weekends and weeklong); day-users for picnics and hiking; Potato Creek is a major birding location; visiting the nature center; school groups in spring; families in the family cabins

Potential arts venues:

- Various shelter houses:
 - Peppermint Hill Recreation Building
 - Enclosed; seats 100; electricity; vault toilet
 - Quaking Aspen Shelter
 - Open; electricity; modern restroom; seats 120
 - Whispering Winds East Shelter
 - Open; no electricity; modern restroom in middle of large open area; seats 60



- Whispering Winds West Shelter
 - Open; electricity; modern restroom; in woods small area; seats 60
- Orchard Shores East Shelter
 - Open; electricity; vault toilets; seats 60
- Orchard Shores West Shelter
 - Open; vault toilets; seats 60.
- Nature Center:
 - Auditorium seating 80 – no kitchen facilities; restroom
 - Front yard
- Beach
 - Patio and large lawn, minimal seating ~ 8 picnic tables
 - Electricity; bathrooms on site; large parking area

Visitation in FY2014:

Daily fees	\$215,589	43,117 entrants
AEP sales	\$102,280	with 18,772 usages
O/S AEP	\$002,460	
GHP	\$018,560	with 5,862 usages

Nearby Communities: South Bend, North Liberty; Lakeville; Plymouth; Bremen; LaPorte

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

